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ACTION MCT-02

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADS-00 SY-05 SYE-00 SS-15 NSC-05
A-02 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /056 W

R 141951Z NOV 79
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3149

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180007Z NOV 79 PROJECT (S2000000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE. A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ☐ In Part ☒ In Full

☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade to

Declassify on Reason

E.O. 12065: GDS 11-14-85 (BLYSTONE, JAMES) OR-A
TAGS: ASEC PINS AR
SUBJECT: MONTONERO TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST FRANCISCO SOLDATTI

REF: BUENOS AIRES 9305

1. ~~SECRET~~ - TINTIRE TEXT. WARNING: SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE
SOURCES INVOLVED.

2. ARGENTINE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION ON THE TERRORIST ATTACK COMMITTED AGAINST
FRANCISCO SOLDATTI ON NOVEMBER 13, 1979:

3. SOURCES STATED THAT A COVERED PICKUP TRUCK PULLED
IN FRONT OF SOLDATTI'S VEHICLE, THEREBY BLOCKING THE
PATH OF SOLDATTI'S VEHICLE AND THE OCCUPANTS OF THE TRUCK
BEGAN SHOOTING. A WOMAN MEMBER OF THE MONTONEROS JUMPED
OUT OF THE BACK OF THE TRUCK WEARING A MILITARY-TYPE
BLOUSE WITH TWO MONTONERO-FABRICATED GRENADES, ONE IN
EACH POCKET. THE WOMAN APPROACHED THE REAR OF SOLDATTI'S
VEHICLE AND WAS ABOUT TO THROW A GRENADE INTO THE VEHICLE
WHEN AN EXPLOSION OCCURRED. SOURCES ARE NOT CERTAIN IF
POLICE, WHO ARRIVED ON THE SCENE, WHEN IN FIRING AT
THE TERRORISTS HIT THE GRENADE THE WOMAN WAS ABOUT TO
THROW WHICH CAUSED THE EXPLOSION. THE EXPLOSION CAUSED
THE GAS TANK OF THE SOLDATTI VEHICLE TO EXPLODE RESULTING

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IN THE DEATH OF SOLDATTI AND HIS DRIVER BY FIRE. NEITHER
SOLDATTI NOR HIS DRIVER WERE KILLED BY THE FIRE.

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4. SOURCES REMARKED THAT THE TERRORIST ATTACK WAS CARRIED OUT BY FIVE MEMBERS OF THE MONTONEROS, THREE MEN AND TWO WOMEN. SOURCES STATED THEY ARE CONFIDENT THAT NONE OF THE MONTONEROS ESCAPED. TWO OF THE MONTONEROS, A MAN AND A WOMAN, WERE APPREHENDED, ALTHOUGH BADLY WOUNDED. AS YET, THE SECURITY FORCES HAVE NOT IDENTIFIED ANY OF THE MONTONEROS. FINGERPRINTS AND PHOTOS HAVE BEEN TAKEN.

5. SOURCES REMARKED THAT THEY WERE LUCKY IN THAT WHEN THE ATTACK BEGAN, A POLICE PATROL VEHICLE WITH TWO UNIFORMED POLICEMEN AND A PRIVATE VEHICLE WITH AN OFF-DUTY POLICEMAN AND HIS FATHER, A RETIRED COMISARIO, CAME UPON THE SCENE AND IMMEDIATELY BEGAN TO OPEN FIRE WITH THEIR FIREARMS AGAINST THE TERRORISTS.

6. SOURCES STATED THAT THE TERRORISTS WERE ARMED, EACH WITH A BELGIAN-MADE 9 MM BROWNING AUTOMATIC PISTOL. THE GROUP ALSO HAD TWO REMINGTON SHOTGUNS AND ONE AK-47 RIFLE. SECURITY FORCES ARE DISTURBED WITH THWEAPONS, AS THIS INDICATES THAT THE MONTONEROS ARE ABLE TO SMUGGLE ARMS INTO THE COUNTRY.
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